level specifically include, inter alia, use of only one car even if a Minister is holding charge of more than one Ministry/Department and not to use vehicles of Public Sector Undertakings/Autonomous Bodies, etc., ban on first class Air travel during tours abroad and ban on accommodation in hotel suites by Secretary level officers while on tour.

(c) As the expenditure on various items is not compiled centrally, it is difficult to quantify the amount of resultant savings.

Conflicting signals on Inflation

4288. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report in the 'Indian Express' of June 24, 1992 captioned, "Conflicting signals on inflation";

(b) if so, what was the actual rate of inflation registered during 1991-92 calculated on the basis of WPI and how it was at variance with that projected in the Budget presented by him for the current year, 1992-93; and

(c) how far the inflation rate has since been contained month to month from April, 1992 onwards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Central Budget for 1992-93 indicated Government's determination to bring down the rate of inflation substantially in the fiscal year 1992-93. The annual rate of inflation has been brought down from 13.6 per cent at the end of 1991-92 to 9.1 per cent on week ending August 1, 1992. The month end inflation rates from April, 1992 onwards are given below:

Inflation Rate (Point-to-point) in terms of WPI (Base : 1981-82-100)

Month-end	Per cent
March, 1992	13.6
April, 1992	13.6
May, 1992	12.9
June, 1992	11.3*
Juy, 1992	9.3*

* Provisional.

Fraud in Income Tax Refund

4289. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, recently, a fraud case of Income Tax Refund order was detected in the National Capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what was the total amount of money which was refunded under the bogus orders; and

(d) what is the amount of money that was refunded by the Income Tax Department throughout the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In January, 1992, a Case of fraud relating to Income Tax refunds came to the notice of the Reserve Bank of India and the Income Tax Department. On verification, it was found that the Refund Order Books from which refund orders were fraudulently issued were missing. Enquiries in respect of the fraudulent

encashment of Income-tax refunds were entrusted to the Crime Branch of Delhi Police. The enquiries made by them so far revealed that two officials of the Income Tax Department and ten officials of Reserve Bank of India are involved in the said fraudulent transactions. The number of refund orders fraudulently encashed is 378 and the amount involved is approximately Rs. 26 lakhs. Till 28-7-92, 106 persons involved in the fraud have been arrested by Police authorities.

(c) The total amount of money involved in fraudulent encashment of refund vouchers is estimated at Rs. 26 lakhs. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 5,71,645 has been recovered upto 31-7-92.

(d) the amounts of refund of Income tax (including the Corporation tax) made during the last three years are as follows:—

Financial Years	(Rupees in Crores)
1989-90 . .	2032
1990-91 . .	2773
1991-92 . .	3411 (Provisional)

स्टेट बैंक आफ पटियाला में अनियमितताएं

4290. **श्री विनोद शर्मा** : क्या **वित्त** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 10 जुलाई, 1992 के स्टेट्समैन में "मिसयूज आफ फंडस बाई बैंक शीर्षक के अधीन प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच है कि श्रद्धानन्द मार्ग स्थित स्टेट बैंक आफ पटियाला की शाखा में अनेकों अनियमितताएं किए जाने की आशंका है ;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि ये संभावनायें व्यक्त की गई है कि उच्च अधिकारी इन अनियमितताओं की समाप्त करने के बजाय इन अनियमितताओं को दबाने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं ;

(घ) यदि हां, तो क्या इन अनियमितताओं के संबंध में तथ्यों का पता लगाने के लिए सरकार किसी गैर-विभागीय निष्पक्ष संस्था की मदद लेने का विचार रखती है ; और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री दलबीर सिंह) : (क) जी हां।

(ख) से (ङ) : स्टेट बैंक आफ पटियाला ने सूचित किया है कि उसकी श्रद्धानन्द मार्ग, नई दिल्ली शाखा में कुछ पार्टियों के अग्रिमों के परिचालन की सूचना उन्हें जांच प्राधिकारी ने 15-5-1992 को दी थी। बैंक ने तत्काल संबंधित प्राधिकारियों से कहा था कि वे वसूली के लिए कार्रवाई करें और बैंक के हितों की रक्षा करें। बैंक ने शाखा प्रबंधक को निलम्बित कर दिया है जो अनियमितताओं के लिए प्रथम-दृष्टया उत्तरदायी पाया गया। बैंक ने केन्द्रीय सतर्कता आयोग के परामर्श से उन सभी के विरुद्ध अनुशासनिक कार्रवाई करने का निर्णय लिया है जो इसमें शामिल पाए गए थे।

Granting of Bail to Drug Traffickers

4291. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV:
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in 'Indian Express' of